



Members of the State Delegate Assembly rise for a standing ovation Friday after unanimously recommending the proposed state multi-unit contract. Now AFSCME Council 5 members in the state executive branch will vote from Aug. 7 to 11.

Corrections TA Reached

The AFSCME negotiating team for state correctional officers has reached a tentative agreement with the state on a proposed two-year contract.

The TA for Unit 8 includes a 2 percent wage hike in 2017 retroactive to July 1 and another 2.25 percent raise in 2018, plus steps. The TA offers the same great health insurance package the multi-unit won, which includes:

- No increase in the employee share of premiums
- No increase in deductibles or maximum out-of-pocket costs
- An increased annual maximum for dental care from \$1,500 to \$2,000
- Dental that now fully covers fluoride sealants, and pays 80 percent of the cost for implants, prosthetics, prosthetic repairs and orthodontics

- Orthodontia that now covers adults as well as children
- A pilot program to lower the costs of diabetes treatment for workers and their adult dependents.

Shift exchanges would be easier under the new contract, which would expand the timeline for requesting an exchange and let workers make shift swaps on cancelled vacation days. Doing an exchange would no longer make workers ineligible for overtime.

Six weeks of paid parental leave would be guaranteed.

The negotiating team recommends approval of the contract. Unit 8 delegates will meet **Aug. 15** to vote. Statewide voting by members is **Sept. 5 through 7**.

Find contract details at www.afscmemn.org/unit8. Watch for voting times and locations at www.afscmemn.org.

Members Urged to Vote on State Contract

State workers will vote on their proposed contract from **Aug. 7 to 11**, following a unanimous vote to recommend approval by the AFSCME Council 5 State Delegate Assembly.

Council 5 executive director Eliot Seide told delegates it's essential that members vote on the tentative agreement in big numbers.

"We have a really good contract, but the one thing that can stop this is the Minnesota Legislature and the Subcommittee on Employee Relations (SER)," Seide says.

"We need a big turnout. We're sending a message to legislators that we do Minnesota's work. This state doesn't operate without us. We demand they do their job!"

The TA for state executive branch workers includes a 2 percent raise this year, 2.25 percent next year, and steps both years.

The TA would hold the line on the employee's share of health insurance costs and improve benefits.

It also would increase dental benefits, dramatically lower the cost of diabetes treatment and guarantee six weeks of paid parental leave. It would boost injured-on-duty pay from 240 hours to 300 hours.

Members will vote at sites across the state. Members can find dates and locations at <http://afscmemn.org/content/state-minnesota>.

Red Cross Workers Approve Contract

After several months of bargaining, workers with the American Red Cross approved their first contract Monday. The workers are part of a group of nearly 300 who joined AFSCME late last year. They are involved in collecting blood across Minnesota and parts of Iowa, Wisconsin and the Dakotas. They include phlebotomists, mobile unit assistants who drive, couriers, supply materials coordinators and workers who prepare blood kits. They are part of Local 3931 with their counterparts in the lab and equipment department, who already were members.

AFSCME Family Picnic Nears

Save the date for the annual picnic on **Sunday, Aug. 20**. AFSCME provides hot dogs, burgers and pop, plus free water park tickets for the first 100 kids. There's face painting and snow cones.

Picnic-goers are encouraged to bring a potluck item that celebrates their heritage. The picnic runs from 1 to 5 p.m. at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood. Have questions or want to volunteer? Call Duane at 651-472-2787 or email kkirk77dg@comcast.net.

Join AFSCME at the Fair!

There are only about a dozen spots still left to volunteer with AFSCME at the Minnesota State Fair **Aug. 24 to Sept. 4**.



*We Do
 Minnesota's Work*

Volunteers get a snazzy new fair T-shirt (design pictured above) and a free ticket to the fair. These shifts still need a few volunteers:

- Aug. 26, 4-7:30
- Aug. 30, 12:30-4 p.m.; 4-7:30
- Aug. 31, 4-7:30
- Sept. 2, 12:30-4; 4-7:30
- Sept. 3, 12:30-4; 4-7:30

Come join the fun! Call Lynette at 651-287-0537 or email lynette.kalsnes@afscmemn.org with two possible shifts, your T-shirt size and cell phone number. Shifts are going fast, so it's first-come, first-served.

Labor Day Picnic

The Central Minnesota Trades and Labor Assembly is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a Labor Day Picnic. The Solidarity Day event features food, beverages, music, kids' games and labor trivia.

It's at Riverside Park in St. Cloud on **Monday, Sept. 4**, noon to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$7 per family. Call Marybeth Juetten at 651-587-6608 with questions.

Celebrate State Capitol Grand Opening

Come see the beautiful restoration of our state Capitol for yourself from **Aug. 11 to 13**.

The state is holding a free celebration featuring tours of restored spaces, including the House and Senate Retiring Rooms and the Supreme Court Conference Room. There's music, dance and fireworks. AFSCME Council 5 is an event sponsor. www.mn.gov/mymncapitol.

Get in on the Action

Action Update publishes twice a month for locals and activists in AFSCME Council 5. Download a copy at www.afscmemn.org or share news by emailing Lynette.Kalsnes@afscmemn.org.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
East Central and West Area Labor Councils 'Right to Work' Training	Aug. 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	https://actionnetwork.org/events/right-to-work-and-leadership-training
State Capitol Grand Reopening Party	Aug. 11 to 13	www.mn.gov/mymncapitol
AFSCME Family Picnic	Aug. 20, 1 to 5 p.m.	Battle Creek Regional Park, Maplewood
AFSCME at the Minnesota State Fair	Aug. 24 through Sept. 4	Labor Pavilion, State Fairgrounds
Labor Day Picnic	Sept. 4, Noon to 3 p.m.	Riverside Park, St. Cloud
AFSCME Council 5 Annual Convention	Oct. 5 to 7	Duluth Entertainment Convention Center